

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Contact: Terri Burns
Director of Summit County DJFS
Office of Executive Shapiro
Terri.Burns@JFS.Ohio.gov
330-643-7211

Stancy Sykes
Coordinator, Community Partnerships,
Student and Family Services
Akron Public Schools
SLS45869@apslearns.org
330-761-1680 Ext. 51680

Annie McFadden
Chief of Staff, Impact and Communications
United Way of Summit and Medina
330-252-8854

JFS launches new collaboration with United Way, APS to enhance Family Resource Centers

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO— Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Job and Family Services, in partnership with Akron Public Schools and United Way of Summit & Medina, is launching an initiative aimed at raising awareness of services offered at Family Resource Centers (FRCs) within schools. These centers serve as crucial access points, uniting families with a diverse array of essential community resources.

The centers, funded by United Way, Akron Public Schools, and corporate donors, act as conduits, connecting families with vital information and referrals, spanning from fundamental necessities to health and wellness programs and financial coaching. The centers are strategically located at McEbright CLC, Helen Arnold CLC, Robinson CLC, North High School and Hyre CLC. Each center is a hub of comprehensive assistance for families living in the APS school clusters. The newest FRC, located in Hyre CLC, is set to be fully open this fall. This partnership with JFS includes the placement of case managers within FRCs.

According to Executive Shapiro, "This partnership represents our unwavering commitment to fostering stronger connections between families, schools, and vital resources. By coming together, we can create a support system that empowers our community's most valuable asset—our children."

Stancy Sykes, Coordinator, Community Partnerships, Student and Family Services of Akron Public Schools, emphasized, "At Akron Public Schools, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom. The collaboration with JFS and United Way allows us to provide comprehensive support to our students and their families, ensuring a holistic approach to their well-being."

Annie McFadden, Chief of Staff, Impact and Communications of United Way of Summit & Medina County, expressed, "We are proud to be part of this collaborative effort that brings together the expertise and

resources of multiple organizations to augment the day-to-day work United Way is currently doing to support students in our Family Resource Centers. By strengthening and expanding these services, we are not only enhancing educational experiences but also building a stronger foundation for the overall growth and success of our communities."

JFS case managers within the FRCs offer an array of essential services:

- Facilitating applications and renewals for cash, food (SNAP), or medical assistance (Medicaid)
- Addressing case-related inquiries and eligibility clarifications
- Assisting with document verification and scanning
- Offering duplication services for essential documents, from birth certificates to pay stubs.
- Providing insights into benefit history and valuable resources

APS families and individuals are encouraged to engage with the Family Resource Centers located within schools, either for resource information or to schedule consultations with JFS case managers. This coordinated endeavor will streamline access to essential services, fostering community well-being. To raise awareness, JFS is providing weekly giveaways to families throughout the month of September.

The synergy between JFS, United Way of Summit & Medina, and Akron Public Schools, promises a transformative support system that empowers students, schools, and neighborhoods to flourish.

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